

Underscored material = new  
[bracketed material] = delete

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

HOUSE BILL 356

43RD LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 1997

INTRODUCED BY

NICK L. SALAZAR

FOR THE HEALTH CARE REFORM COMMITTEE

AN ACT

RELATING TO HEALTH; ENACTING THE COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH  
PLAN ACT; MAKING AN APPROPRIATION.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

Section 1. SHORT TITLE. -- This act may be cited as the  
"County Comprehensive Health Plan Act".

Section 2. PURPOSE OF ACT. -- The purpose of the County  
Comprehensive Health Plan Act is to encourage the development of  
countywide or multicounty comprehensive health plans to promote  
better allocation of health care resources and better delivery  
of health services to underserved populations.

Section 3. DEFINITIONS. -- As used in the County  
Comprehensive Health Plan Act:

A. "board" means the board of county commissioners  
of a county;

Underscored material = new  
[bracketed material] = delete

- 1           B. "department" means the department of health; and
- 2           C. "planning council" means the county comprehensive
- 3 health planning council.

4           Section 4. PLANNING COUNCIL CREATED--MEMBERSHIP.--

- 5           A. The board may create a county comprehensive
- 6 health planning council and may appoint members for terms
- 7 designated by the board. The members of the planning council
- 8 shall be selected to represent a broad spectrum of interests
- 9 related to county health issues.
- 10          B. The planning council shall elect from its members
- 11 a chairman for a term designated by the board. The planning
- 12 council shall meet at the call of the chairman.
- 13          C. Planning council members shall not be paid, but
- 14 they may receive per diem and mileage expenses paid by the
- 15 county as provided in the Per Diem and Mileage Act.

16           Section 5. COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH PLANS.--

- 17          A. The board or its designee with the advice of the
- 18 planning council may prepare a county comprehensive health plan.
- 19 The plan shall have the approval of the planning council and the
- 20 board before it may be submitted by the board to the department
- 21 for approval.
- 22          B. Two or more boards may agree to establish a
- 23 multicounty comprehensive health plan.
- 24          C. Each county comprehensive health plan shall
- 25 include:

1 (1) a county needs assessment that identifies  
2 and quantifies:

3 (a) those populations whose health care  
4 needs are not being met;

5 (b) the major factors that affect  
6 accessibility to health services;

7 (c) the gaps in available health  
8 services; and

9 (d) the extent to which county residents  
10 use health services available in other counties;

11 (2) a county inventory that identifies existing  
12 public and private providers, services and health plans,  
13 medicaid and other governmental and charitable resources,  
14 program duplications and the county's current monetary  
15 contributions to health programs; and

16 (3) recommendations on how to improve and fund  
17 health services in the county based on the county's needs  
18 assessment and inventory of existing services and resources. In  
19 its recommendations, the county shall include proposals to  
20 eliminate duplication of services, improve access to health care  
21 for underserved populations and initiate new services as needed.  
22 The county shall also include conclusions about the need to rely  
23 on services available in other counties and on the level of  
24 charitable, federal, state and county funding and in-kind  
25 contributions that are required to implement its plan fully.

Underscored material = new  
[bracketed material] = delete

1                   D. Development of the county comprehensive health  
2 plan and recommendations may include consideration of:  
3                   (1) financing of care for persons not eligible  
4 for medicaid;  
5                   (2) proposals to expand provider capacity;  
6                   (3) recruitment and retention of health  
7 professionals;  
8                   (4) outreach and health education projects;  
9                   (5) projects that enhance use of preventive  
10 care; and  
11                   (6) projects that coordinate local community  
12 services, including those services provided by the public health  
13 office in the county.

14                   E. The county comprehensive health plan shall be  
15 updated at the request of the board or the department if the  
16 plan as implemented is not achieving the stated goals or if the  
17 needs of the local population change.

18                   Section 6. COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH PLAN FUNDS--

19                   A. The department may require a county to have a  
20 department-approved comprehensive health plan as a condition of  
21 the department contracting for health services in the county.

22                   B. The department may require a county to contribute  
23 funds or services to the development or implementation or both  
24 of the county's comprehensive health plan as a condition of the  
25 department contracting for health services to implement the

Underscored material = new  
[bracketed material] = delete

1 plan.

2 Section 7. DEPARTMENT-- POWERS AND DUTIES. --

3 A. The department shall review, evaluate and approve  
4 or reject a county comprehensive health plan, and the department  
5 may require that a county update its county comprehensive health  
6 plan.

7 B. The department is authorized to contract for  
8 health services to implement county comprehensive health plans,  
9 subject to the availability of appropriations for that purpose.

10 C. The department shall monitor and evaluate the  
11 contracts funded by the department and assess whether delivery  
12 of health services to previously underserved populations has  
13 increased.

14 D. The department shall provide technical assistance  
15 and training to assist each county as needed in developing its  
16 comprehensive health plan.

17 E. The department may gather information necessary  
18 to evaluate the effectiveness of services it contracts for  
19 through the provisions of the County Comprehensive Health Plan  
20 Act.

21 F. The department shall adopt rules and regulations  
22 necessary to carry out the purposes of the County Comprehensive  
23 Health Plan Act, including:

- 24 (1) the procedures and format for applying for  
25 department approval of a county comprehensive health plan;

Underscored material = new  
[bracketed material] = delete

1 (2) the format for county comprehensive health  
2 plans;

3 (3) the criteria to review, evaluate and  
4 approve or reject a county comprehensive health plan;

5 (4) the procedures and format for requesting  
6 that the department procure services under an approved county  
7 comprehensive health plan;

8 (5) the formula used to determine a county's  
9 required contribution to implement its comprehensive health  
10 plan;

11 (6) the procedure to determine a county's need  
12 for health services;

13 (7) the procedure to determine the distribution  
14 of state funds appropriated to implement county comprehensive  
15 health plans;

16 (8) the procedure for gathering and reporting  
17 programmatic and financial information necessary to evaluate the  
18 effectiveness of health services that the department contracts  
19 for through the provisions of the County Comprehensive Health  
20 Plan Act; and

21 (9) definitions that set an acceptable minimum  
22 standard for the services provided.

23 Section 8. APPROPRIATION. -- One million dollars  
24 (\$1,000,000) is appropriated from the general fund to the  
25 department of health for expenditure in fiscal year 1998 for

. 114280. 1

Underscored material = new  
~~[bracketed material] = delete~~

1 grants to counties for development of county comprehensive  
2 health plans and for administrative costs of the department of  
3 health in assisting counties with development of county  
4 comprehensive health plans. Any unexpended or unencumbered  
5 balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 1998 shall revert to  
6 the general fund.

7 - 7 -  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25